



*Walls come tumblin'down*  
Joshua Chapter 6

# The Destruction of Jericho ...

- Is an event we can feel disconnected from
  - What's it got to do with me?
  - Why's it even in the Bible?
- Introduction?
  - Step back and remind ourselves
  - Old Testament history ... in 5 minutes?



# OT books & dates ... in 5 minutes

- The Promise made to Abraham GENESIS
- 12 sons of Jacob (Israel) end up in Egypt – slaves EXODUS
- Moses shows up .. Red Sea ... EXODUS
- 40 years in the desert but still holding on to The Promise
- Israel arrives at the edge of Canaan JOSHUA
- And there are many chapters of this story to come ...

# OT books & dates ... in 5 minutes

- Israel settles in the land, appoints Judges JUDGES
- Then come the Kings ... Saul, David. Solomon  
1 and 2 Samuel
- The Kingdom breaks into 2 1 and 2 Kings
- Northern Kingdom scattered warnings from Amos, Hosea
- Southern Kingdom goes into exile  
warnings from Isaiah, Jeremiah
- Jerusalem destroyed – Israel in exile Daniel, Ezekiel
- Return from exile Ezra, Nehemiah
- Until ... eventually God himself will enter the  
stage .... Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John .....

# The Point?

- Not some ancient disconnected event
- This is the story of God's people
- This is YOUR story
- So there is something for us ...



# Joshua 6

Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.

2 Then the Lord said to Joshua, 'See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. 3 March round the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. 4 Make seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march round the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. 5 When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, make the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.'

6 So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, 'Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and make seven priests carry trumpets in front of it.' 7 And he ordered the army, 'Advance! March round the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the Lord.'

8 When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the Lord went forwards, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the Lord's covenant followed them. 9 The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. 10 But Joshua had commanded the army, 'Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!' 11 So he had the ark of the Lord carried round the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there.

12 Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. 13 The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forwards, marching before the ark of the Lord and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the Lord, while the trumpets kept sounding. 14 So on the second day they marched round the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

15 On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched round the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. 16 The seventh time round, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, 'Shout! For the Lord has given you the city! 17 The city and all that is in it are to be devoted[a] to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. 18 But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. 19 All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord and must go into his treasury.'

20 When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city. 21 They devoted the city to the Lord and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it – men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.

22 Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, 'Go into the prostitute's house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her.' 23 So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.

24 Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the Lord's house. 25 But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho – and she lives among the Israelites to this day.

26 At that time Joshua pronounced this solemn oath: 'Cursed before the Lord is the one who undertakes to rebuild this city, Jericho:

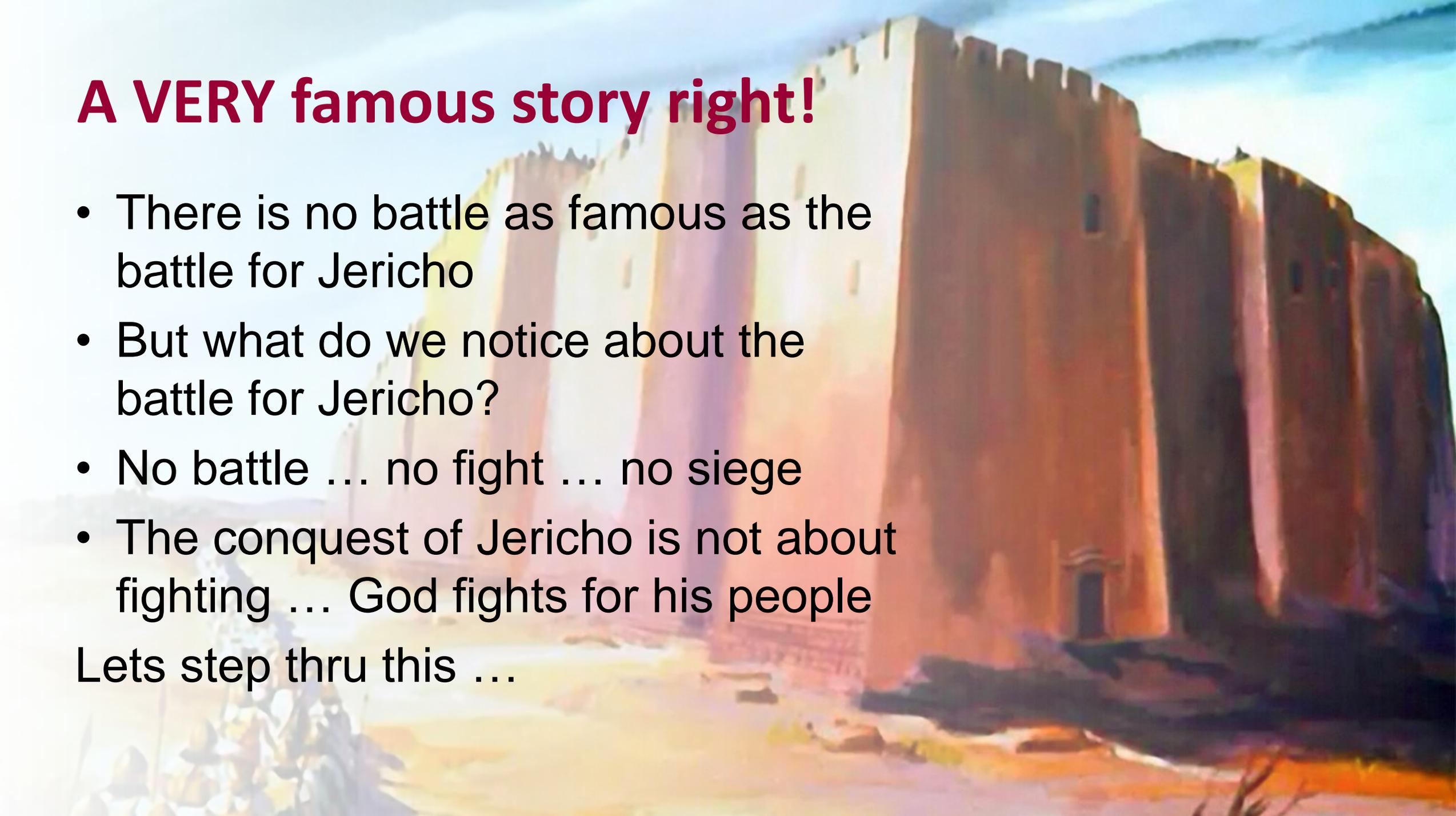
'At the cost of his firstborn son he will lay its foundations; at the cost of his youngest he will set up its gates.'

27 So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.

# A VERY famous story right!

- There is no battle as famous as the battle for Jericho
- But what do we notice about the battle for Jericho?
- No battle ... no fight ... no siege
- The conquest of Jericho is not about fighting ... God fights for his people

Lets step thru this ...



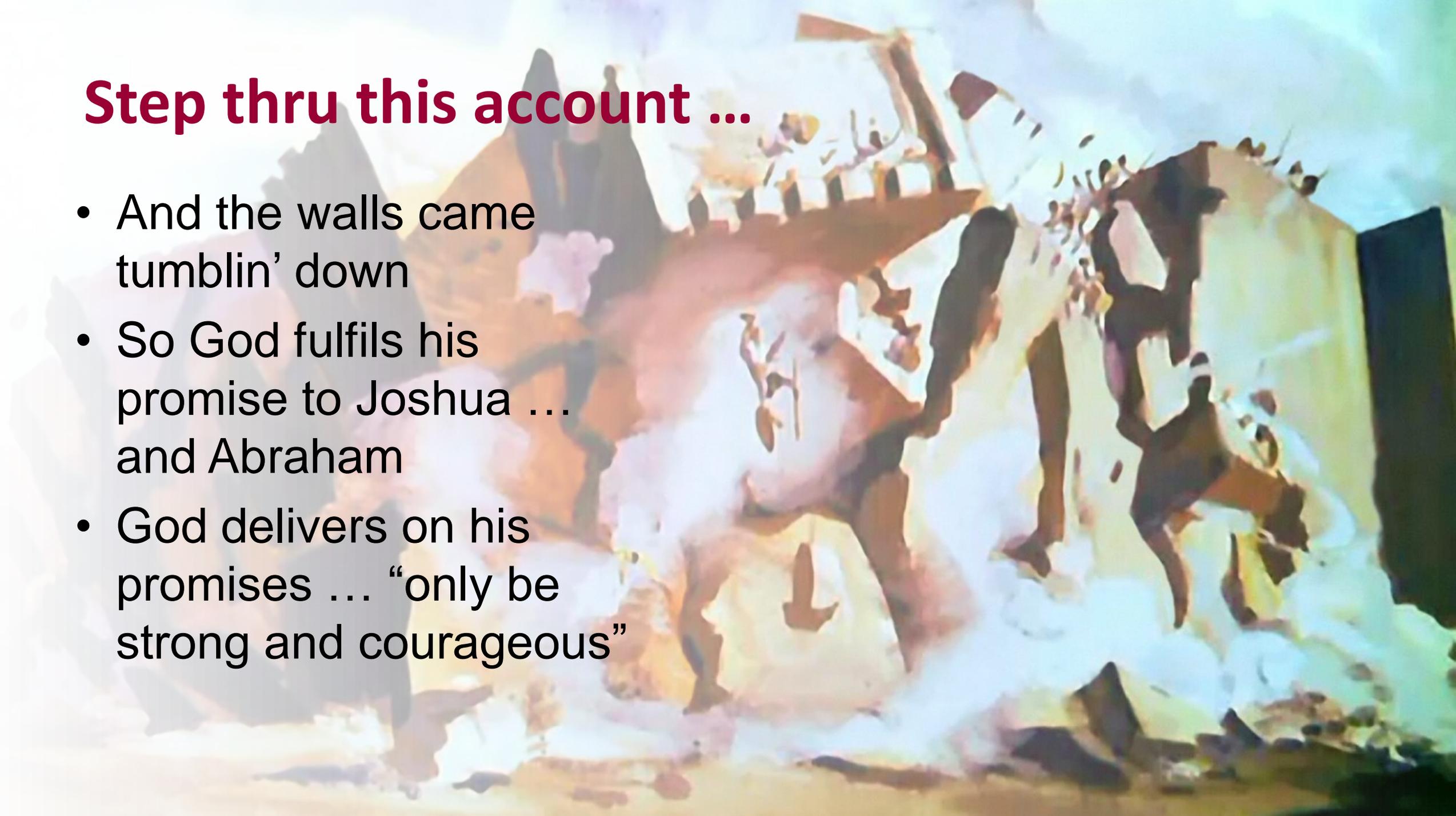
# Step thru this account ...

1. Soldiers go ahead of the priests
2. **7** priests take **7** trumpets
3. Take the Ark – “the very presence of God”
4. March round the city every day for 6 days
5. On the **7th** day march **7** times



## Step thru this account ...

- And the walls came tumblin' down
- So God fulfils his promise to Joshua ... and Abraham
- God delivers on his promises ... “only be strong and courageous”



# God has a history of fighting for his people

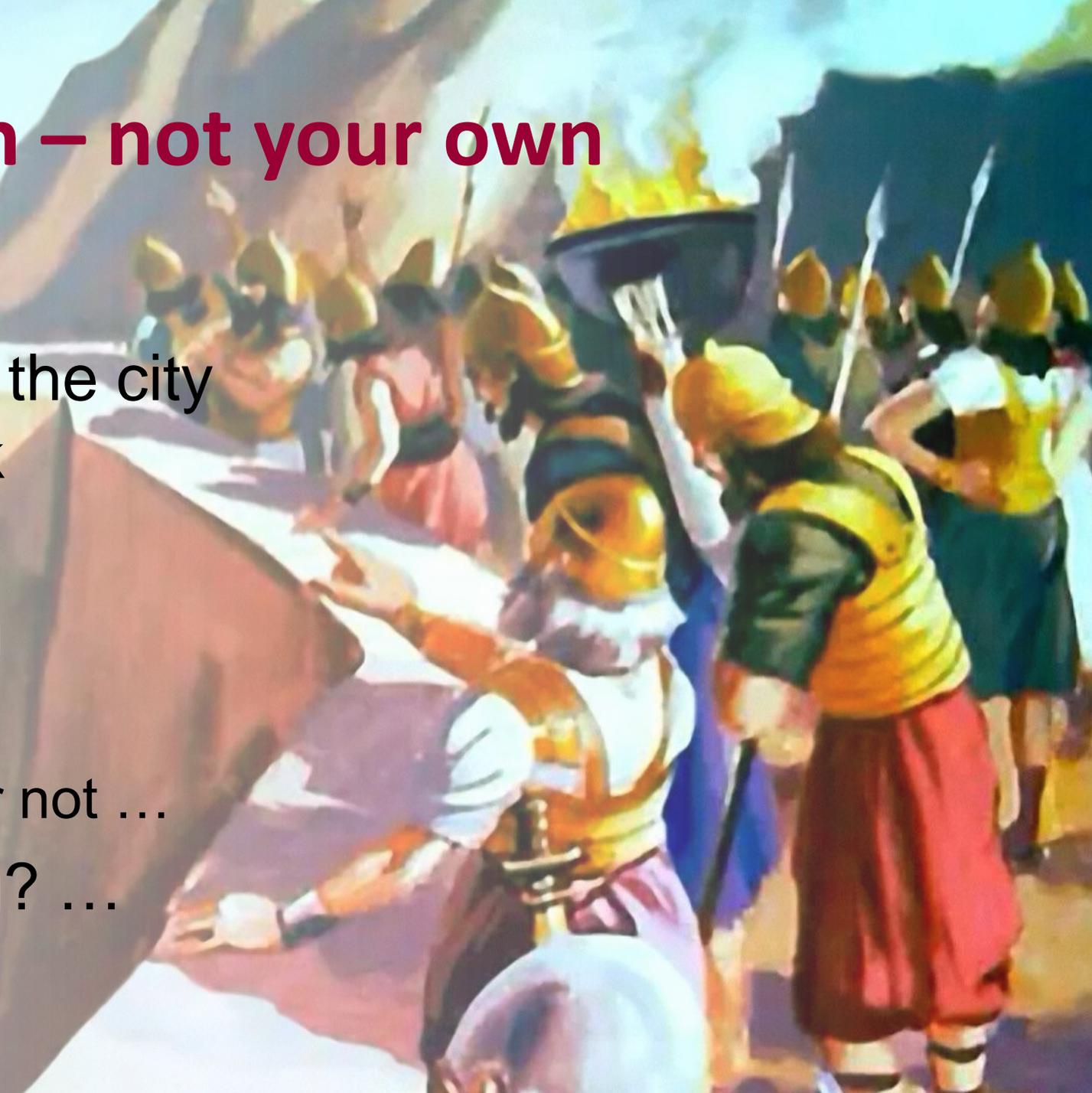
God will often calm his people - & disarm his people

- At the Red Sea
  - Calm down – disarm yourself
- Gideon and the Midianites
  - Be calm - go disarmed
- David and Goliath
  - No armour, no sword - disarm yourself
- Most surprisingly as the Son of God hangs on a Roman cross
  - Not the battle you imagined  
Yet a battle will certainly be won



# Stand in my strength – not your own

- A pattern is repeating
- And ancient Israel takes the city with no calculated attack
- Instead the people are
  - Worshipping and praising
  - In obedience
  - Whether they felt like it or not ...
- Weird? ... Embarrassing? ...
- Be calm, be disarmed



***So the most important part of this story ...***

*... is the part that isn't there*

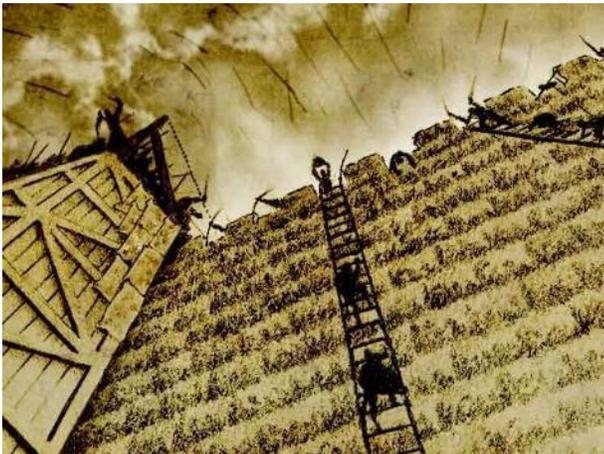
# “Disarm yourself ... and see what I will do”

- Sometimes God needs to “disarm us” – WHY?
- Teach us dependence, trust, faith
- Sometimes God needs to re-educate us ...”don’t struggle”
- Sometimes we have to put aside our armour .... weapons, our defences, our masks ...until we have no other options
- Ancient Israel had other options too – like us - could have relied on their own strengths .....

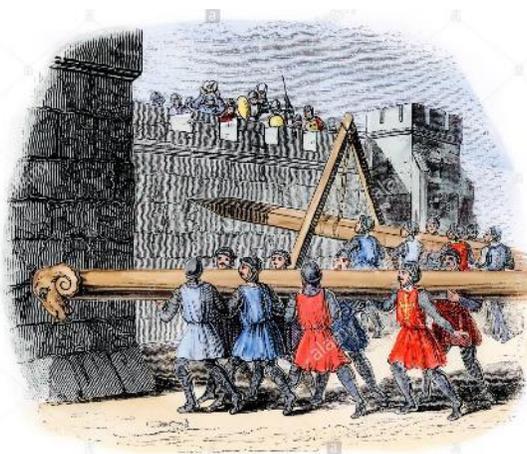


# Weapons of War!

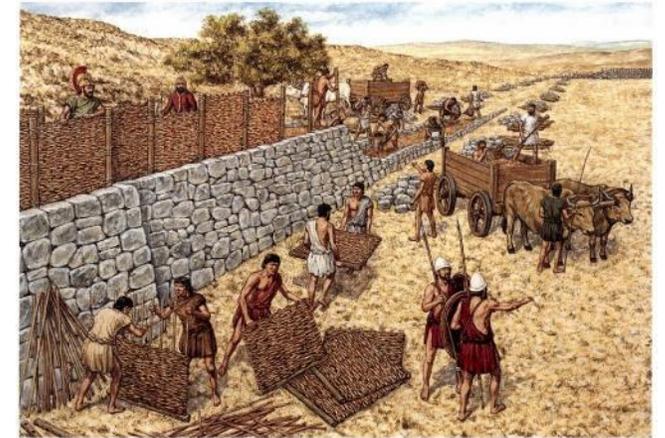
- Climb the walls
- Superior knowledge ..  
Knowing the right  
people ...



- Batter them down
- Jump to the bitter  
argument – rake up the  
past – belittle them ...



- Starve them out
- The silent treatment is  
not defence, it's offence  
...



Ultimately these behaviours are driven by fear, worry, anxiety

# **“Don’t fight the world using your own weapons”**

- God wants to disarm us – and that can hurt
- Only then can we learn dependence ... as many before us have done
- Are you fighting a situation this week?
  - Someone who ‘needs to be told’?
  - Someone who causes you anger or anxiety?
  - Or just curling up in a ball of worry?
- God would calm you ... and disarm you

# But HOW?

- Not easy
  - Seeking God's face in the midst of a situation - we are easily stressed
  - Stepping aside from our default ways of fighting ....sarcasm or hurtful comments ... silence ... or falling into a pit of anxiety
  - How can we mimic ancient Israel's attitude ... calm and disarmed?



# Calmed and disarmed

## A non-anxious presence in stressful times

1. Practice gratitude as a discipline!
2. Engage in intentional acts of kindness
3. Take time out from whatever makes you react - or curl up
4. Practice prayer and prayerfulness
5. Be part of a support structure - as Christians have always done

**... and walls do come tumblin' down!**

